Rec.d June 28/59.
Ans.d

Rev. Samuel May

Leicester

Massachusetts.

Dr. Cheever
"with the
Slaveholders."

The "heavy under-
scoring" in my last,
on which you rally me a little,
was accidental - My pen split
I believe - at any rate, I was al
most induced to throw the whole
sheet away for that one defor-
mity. I hold to emphasis,
but not to bellow-
ing too loud.

I shall be on the Cape the day the Mass. Historical Society is to meet at Hancock Hall Quincy.

Hyannis 25 June – 1859 –

Dear Friend Nay –

Yours of the 20th came duly to hand – To have been the occasion of giving you such a labor in your Cause, Kath is to me very painful. But to blame myself for it, I cannot. To all you say of the importance of the Cause, & of Harmony in Movement, I fully subscribe. I hardly see how it could have been said however to me. Who has more at stake in it than myself? And I am now in my One & twentieth year in its service. With five "calls" in my desk to settle over parishes in New England, & One of a most tempting character (Pecuniarily) from Missouri besides, I abandoned the Pulpit at large Risk, that I might consecrate my all of body & Spirit, present & prospective, to the cause of Humanity.

With a large circle of relatives, almost every one in the ortho-dox church, including father and mother, I learned by a painful experience, what it was to "forsake all" for the truth, in the most literal manner possible. Twenty years have since rolled their record on high, of the manner in which my mission has been prosecuted. Twice in the time, I had every reason to suppose my work was done; & from what seemed a dying bed, I had opportunity to review the past; & I do not now recollect that the retrospect gave me any serious regret, at least on the ground of unfaithfulness. Under these & many other similar circumstances, the very serious and apparently ministerial admonitions of your letter, on the importance of disinterest-

edly "sinking ourselves in the cause", with "all our differency of opinion", and "absolutely to disallow & prohibit any person at fuling from coming to the surface". In a line from you, immediatly after asking you to allow my Agency in the Society to be discontinued for the present, you spoke very pointedly to me on this and other kindred themes- inevitably creating the feeling in me, that my position, place and esperience, as well as wisdom & knowledge of the nature and needs of the Cause, were in your judgment, far enough yet, from being beyond the necessity of pastoral guidance. Perhaps I misjudge you. If so this also is true - It is wholly between ourselves, & so will remain (if you wish it,) at least on my part, forever.

so did your letters read to
me — so do they still. And per-
haps it was all right that they
should so read. You may
write even more strongly than
and you shall not offend me
You have much to say about
my bad spirit particularly since
coming from abroad. I shall
not now (if ever) ask what you
mean — No one else has been
faithful to me in this respect as yourself.
[redacted]. Mr. Ph
ips called me to account for
my bearing towards some person
not himself among them, on on
occasion — I think my explan
ation was satisfactory to him
at least neither he or any oth
has spoken to me about the matt
since. I am willing my absent
speeches in Boston & New-Yor
should be submitted to the best
judges on earth, as to their ton
and spirit, this year or last. W

MS. B. L. 6 v. 7, p. 52

I will meet any one face to face, with whom I have had to do in private, and answer satisfactorily & honorably to every charge of bitterness or unkindness which can be brought against me.

But I fear no great good can come from this tedious correspondence between you & me. I am sorry for it, particularly as there is such a world of pressing work needed on every hand; and it will be hard to convince me that I am in any blameworthy sense its occasion. You must however indulge me in a word on your attempt to reconcile Wendell Johnson and Wendell Phillips as to the position of Dr. Channing. You spoke of the late hour of the night in which you were writing. I wish you had postponed that last

of Jour letter till morning -
I can see nothing but Chaos
impassable between them.

Johnson says - "he," Cheever, "has
taken the highest ground against
Slavery - ** "He stands like
one of the old Prophets, thunder-
ing forth the truth of God, (a-
gainst Slavery) without fear
or compromise. - And a-
gain, after one exception made, "we can think of no
North Slavery work of more im-
portance, than that which has
for its object, the support of
Dr. Cheever in his position as
an uncompromising foe of
Slavery. ** We trust the Mission of Miss Johnston will be entirely successful."

Wm. Phillips says the same Man
"occupies the most painful po-
sition of any in America". Then
as to Miss Johnston's "success" for
which Johnson prays, he says
in his Resolution, "we express
the hope that not one dollar

of foreign or domestic aid will be given him, until he cuts loose from all connection with a church which is "soaked in the blood of theives." And Cheever himself, as you know, told Mr. Garrison he had no idea of any such step, at present, if indeed, ever.

And now you ask Mr. (in effect) to endorse Johnson, and to believe that Mr. Phillips will do so also, most unqualifiedly. I can do neither. Dr. Cheever occupies No Anti Slavery position at all. He has not taken a step towards it. His fulminations against Slavery might stun all the devils deaf as adders; still he stands with the slave holder, North and South. He declares he will, in spite of us & all our testimonies. And he branded & blasted us as Infidels, in his last speech in New York.

Oliver Johnson knew it, called attention to it, but no explanation has been made - None will be made. Johnson knows none will be made - We all know it. Nor does Phillips endorse Johnson in that article, more than I. We had a long talk about it at his house, the day before the N. E. Convention - And I still think his resolution on Theodore (& one of yours at Blackstone, too) would not have passed, had I offered it. His name with the countenance of most of the Ex. Com. would place me at sad disadvantage opposing him, in any Convention. To what you say about the "Convention passing only what it understands and believes," does not meet my difficulty - though abstractly, true.

But I will not write a sentence more; except to say that I cannot be alienated from the Society and its objects, till I know God & the Truth are no longer there - And so subscribe, most devotedly Yours

Parker Pillsbury

MS. B. 1.6 v. 7, p. 52